

Thames River Supportive Housing Program  
1 Thames River Place  
Norwich CT 06360

3/12/10

RE: Support S.B. No. 405

An Act Concerning the Development of Cost Effective Supportive Housing For Frequent Users of Costly State Services

Hello,

I am a Case Manager for Thames River Supportive Housing Program located in Southeastern CT. Our program currently serves 9 formerly homeless families who reside in scattered site apartments. Before entering into this program, these families were living in shelters or transitional living programs.

Our families typically meet with their case manager at least weekly in their homes. This type of in depth case management allows us to provide more services beyond what could be accomplished sitting in an office setting. We look how the family functions as a whole and are able to identify immediate and long term needs. These needs can include but are not limited to parenting, developmental, physical and mental health needs.

Most importantly, we address potential crisis such as relapse and lack of basic immediate needs. We are able to collaborate with doctors, employers, counselors and immediate family to provide support.

Our most important role is not only to keep our families housed but successfully housed meaning they have the skills and support to develop strong positive relations with their landlords and surrounding community. Combined, these interventions put less strain on For example:

Supportive Housing keeps families and individuals out of emergency shelters, prevents them from sleeping in cars and unsafe locations and prevents overcrowding which puts other families at risk for eviction.

Supportive Housing tenants are guided to pay their rent on time report damages and avoid neglecting tenant obligations therefore reducing the use of eviction protection funds or court and legal systems.

Tenants are more likely to access primary care providers reducing the use of emergency rooms as a means to medical care.

Case managers are able to guide families to access early educational/social emotional interventions for their children reducing a strain on educational resources later.

Tenants with substance abuse and mental health diagnosis have support to seek services enabling them to lead more productive lives. Tenants are able to work with various employment agencies to gain and keep successful employment.